

Welsh Secretary sees community renewal projects in Torfaen

Secretary of State for Wales Robert Buckland has viewed two community projects in Torfaen which are receiving UK Government funding to increase the amount of locally-produced food and combat food poverty.

The Welsh Secretary was in Cwmbran on Wednesday 28 September to see how £618,403 allocated to the Food4Growth initiative under the UK Government's Community Renewal Fund, was being used in the community.

The launch of the Community Renewal Fund in Autumn 2021 saw £46m granted to 160 projects across Wales, including £3.8m allocated to seven different local initiatives in Torfaen, including Food4Growth.

On Wednesday, Robert Buckland visited two of Food4Growth's projects – radio station Able Radio which has opened a community food shop and food distribution scheme Tasty Not Wasty.

Secretary of State for Wales Robert Buckland said:

It was fantastic to be in Cwmbran to see how the injection of funding we made a few short months ago is doing good in our communities.

We want to unlock the potential of all our local areas and target significant funding to places that need it and where it can make a real difference to people's lives.

Councillor Joanne Gauden, Executive Member for Skills and Regeneration, said:

We were thrilled that the Secretary of State for Wales came to visit two projects in Torfaen.

We are really proud of these projects. They have worked so hard to get these projects off the ground and are dedicated to helping the community.

The costs of living crisis really is being felt by all, so it's lovely to see projects like this helping people. It would be wonderful to see more projects like these in Torfaen.

Shaun O'Dwyer- Managing Director, Able Radio, said:

The Food4Growth grant has allowed Able to provide suitable opportunities for those we support.

Importantly it has allowed Able to redevelop our site and install poly tunnels, a sustainABLE shop that operates a pay as you feel model.

Supporting the community is an important objective for Able, the engagement opportunities and relationships fostered from this funding has created strong network in Torfaen, allowing communities to access fresh, sustainable produce whilst recognising the abilities and strengths of the people with learning disabilities we support.

Sabrina Cresswell, Director, Tasty Not Wasty, said:

With support from the Food4Growth project we are now able to increase usage and train local volunteers. It has enabled us to provide healthy food at a lower cost whilst helping to reduce food waste and bring the community together.

Last year UK Government launched three new funds including the Levelling Up Fund which saw £121m allocated to 10 major projects in Wales and the Community Renewal Fund which saw £46m allocated to 160 new programmes in Wales that invest in people, boost skills and support local business.

The £200 million UK-wide funding through the Community Renewal Fund will help local areas prepare for the launch of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the scheme that will see UK-wide funding at least match EU money, reaching around £1.5 billion a year.

Food4Growth is a cooperation project between Torfaen, Caerphilly and Monmouthshire with the aim to find new ways to help develop food supply chains and create a whole system approach

With a huge rise in numbers of people in food poverty the project also launched a Community Food Scheme, where third sector organisations, community groups or public sector services were encouraged to apply for a grant to help create sustainable solutions to food poverty.

The Food4Growth project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Community Renewal Fund.

North Korea ballistic missile launch: FCDO statement

Press release

A Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office spokesperson statement on North Korea's ballistic missile launch on 29 September.



A Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office spokesperson said:

The UK is deeply concerned by North Korea's decision to carry out further ballistic missile tests on 29 September in violation of UN Security Council Resolutions.

We urge North Korea to refrain from provocations and take concrete steps towards complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation. Alongside our allies and partners, the UK is committed to peace on the Korean Peninsula, upholding the rules-based international system and securing an end to North Korea's unlawful activities. We strongly encourage North Korea to return to dialogue with the US.

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[Crime news: fee uplifts of 15% take effect from 30 September](#)

News story

Criminal legal aid schemes will see wide-ranging fee increases from 30 September 2022.



Changes to the fees paid for criminal legal aid work from 30 September 2022 mean we are updating the guidance you use when submitting claims.

Which fees are increasing?

A 15% uplift applies to all the following fees:

- police station, including pre-charge engagement
- magistrates' court, including youth court
- Criminal Cases Review Commission work
- advocates' graduated fees
- expert fees
- Very High Cost Cases (VHCC) litigator fees
- basic fee element of litigators' graduated fees, as well as all fixed fees and hourly rates

The increase does not apply to pages of prosecution evidence (PPE) and trial length proxies in the Litigators' Graduated Fee Scheme, or to prison law cases.

The 'elected not proceeded' (ENP) fixed fee is being abolished. These cases will now receive the appropriate graduated fee.

ENP fees have been paid in 'either way' cases. This is when defendants elect for Crown Court trial, in cases that could also be heard by magistrates', but later change their pleas to guilty.

Claiming the new fees

You can claim for the new fees for any cases where the matter starts, or the representation order is dated, on or after 30 September 2022.

Where can I find out more?

Details of the revised fees and hourly rates are set out in the Criminal Legal Aid Remuneration Regulations (amended) 2022.

You can also use the updated guidance on GOV.UK:

1. Fee changes for police station, youth court, and magistrates' court work are set out in the guide to changes in reporting crime lower work.

2. Changes to the litigator and advocate fee schemes relating to ENP matters are dealt with in the Crown Court fee guidance.
3. Expert witness fee changes can be found in the annex 6 of the GOV.UK expert witness fee guidance.

Why is this happening now?

These increases reflect the government's interim response to the recommendations made by Sir Christopher Bellamy's Independent Review of Criminal Legal Aid.

Further information

[Expert witness fee guide](#)

[Crown Court fee guidance](#)

[Guide to changes in reporting crime lower work](#) – first attachment on page

[Criminal Legal Aid \(Remuneration\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2022](#)

[Response to Independent Review of Criminal Legal Aid](#)

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Atlantic Future Forum: Minister for the Americas Keynote Speech

National and Economic Security Policy in a Geopolitical Age: the UK's approach

Thank you very much indeed, Samira, who can follow that extraordinary exchange we had just had between Eric Schmidt and General Sir Patrick Sanders. What an education that was in itself and what a delight it is to listen to and speak to you on this fascinating topic.

I am responsible in the British government for the diplomatic interface with the technology of the kind we are talking about, it could be defence and security, or it could be other kinds and I will touch upon them a little bit later in my talk. Ladies and gentlemen, as you have heard and know this is not a world or a time for a grand strategy. We face a strained international order, characterised by state competition and mounting security threats as well as the kinds of non-state actors we have seen in recent years. As societies and economies have become more complex and more interconnected, new vulnerabilities have emerged and been exploited and they in turn damage the

integrity of the open economic system which has underpinned our prosperity since the 1990s. We should think not in terms of two geographies, Europe and the Far East but also a third in the Middle East and that it going to impose new stresses and strains on that system.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has brought that reality into the sharpest relief as we have just been hearing. This weaponisation of connectivity – whether grain or gas – has driven soaring global energy prices and plunged millions of the world's most vulnerable into hunger and famine. Many miles from the theatre of war potentially into hunger and famine. As Eric said this is the first broadband war, this is not just in technologies but in mind-set and leadership. Technology has been central to the response. But this comes in both directions, but the unity and resolve in Great Britain and United States, European Allies and others in responding to such an act of aggression has been very striking. We have imposed major macro-economic cost on President Putin, frustrated his war machine and strengthened Ukrainian leverage and power. And we know it caught Russia off-guard: our sanctions have already seen Russia facing its first external debt default potentially for a century. Above all, it demonstrated that the 'political west' has the economic weight to defend global stability and promote the values we cherish – openness, sovereignty and freedom.

Now this systematic competition that we have described is intensifying, and is growing in complexity. The geopolitical order is being superseded or placed within a wider new global order of opinion and connectivity and narrative. Our mission on economic security is clear and crystallising – at home and with partners, and I propose to touch on three aspects of that mission.

The first is learning from our Russia/Ukraine experience in order to do more to resist aggression and coercion. That means for us focusing on deepening co-operation with G7 allies to build a new economic security mechanism; what the Prime Minister has called an 'Economic NATO' that will improve our collective ability to assess, deter, and respond to threats from aggressive powers, including economic coercion. In the simplest terms if the economy of one partner is being targeted by an aggressive regime we should be prepared and we will be prepared through this new mechanism to support them. Having such defensive economic measures alongside traditional measures of resistance in a state of readiness builds credible asymmetric deterrence to aggression including threats of military force. It underscores our commitment to a world in which respect for international rules and sovereignty is the bedrock of good relations, good business and healthy society.

Secondly, we must build our own resilience to shocks – this has been a big theme of the last 24 hours – whether they are organic or come from outside. The most urgent part of this task is to build redundancies and to end our dependence on authoritarian states who would weaponise our very openness and integration and connectivity to hurt us. We have shown unprecedented resolve in this respect – divesting away from Russian energy supply is a signal of utmost importance in showing our willingness to bear short term economic costs in defending a sovereign free state from unprovoked aggression.

We are also getting ahead in other possible areas of strategic dependence. Whether it is vital new technologies or the critical minerals that will power those technologies and support them. We are working to strengthen trusted supply chains that can be relied on whatever the geopolitical weather. Supply chains that can operate on a cost basis that allows them to be effective, wide spread and support our wider aims. That will mean helping allies pursue and consolidate strategic advantage – a practice of “friend shoring” across key sectors. And as we think to our friends, there is no closer or more trusted bond than that between our two countries the United Kingdom and United States of America. It is often said that democracies are slower to respond to threats but more resilient over time. We must change that, we must be quicker to respond and more resilient. We must be highly rapid in our response in a highly changing environment as Eric Schmit has pointed out.

Finally, we must learn in this new world to “play offence” even better than we are at the moment. That means not to abandon but to practice and exemplify the values we are defending. That is to promote the liberal international trading order, whose transformative benefits we have seen for many decades across the world. And to be a dynamic, reliable and a trustworthy partner. This applies to the terms of trade. We are at a globally high standard. The free trade agreements we are developing are of the highest quality when it comes to transparency and trust. And our new independent trade policy allows us to do more for emerging economies including through the Developing Countries Trading Scheme – a scheme that will offer 65 developing countries greater opportunities from exporting to the UK.

It also means extending our collective economic offer to the world – in the sectors that matter most to them, and without the strings of coercion we have seen our adversaries use. At the highest level, the G7 Partnership for Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) is an important leap forward. PGII will mobilise \$600bn of reliable finance for infrastructure investment in low and middle-income countries over the next five years. What it shows is that combating future adversaries is not just liberties as a value itself but it is something we must turn our strength to and our capacity to innovate in support for the global good – in a whole range of sectors from vaccines to the next generation of energy production and many others. And these are sectors I will be focusing my team on within government in the coming months.

Ladies and gentlemen, the war of the future is the war of hearts and minds as well as weapons. If it was ever thus, it is more so now than it ever before. But we need to build and maintain that trust. And we will. Thank you very much indeed.

[New NWS films explain how a GDF works](#)

and the opportunities it creates

News story

NWS Professor Neil Hyatt presents 'Inspired by nature, perfected by science' and 'Building the future today'



Prof Neil Hyatt, Chief Scientist, NWS

Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) has today published two short films about geological disposal.

NWS' Chief Scientist, Professor Neil Hyatt, introduces the short film 'Inspired by nature, perfected by science' which explains how natural geology provides inspiration for the secure, long-term isolation and containment of nuclear waste in a GDF. Neil describes how science perfected this further with the multi-barrier concept for the design of a GDF, with natural and engineered barriers working together.

[GDF – Inspired by nature, perfected by science – YouTube](#)

Professor Hyatt also presents a second short film, 'Building the future today', in which he describes how different towns of all sizes have prospered in the past by building on an opportunity, involving new industries, skills or infrastructures. As a new infrastructure, a GDF too may present an opportunity for the local community that chooses to host it. A GDF, as well as providing a secure, permanent underground home for nuclear waste, brings with it plenty of investment, jobs, and skills.

[GDF – Building the future, today – YouTube](#)

Professor Hyatt said:

We're making real strides in the search for a suitable site and a willing community for a GDF – with a number of communities engaging in the process in different parts of the country.

It was a real privilege to present these films and, as we continue to make progress in delivering a UK GDF, it's important that we explain how a GDF works and the opportunities created by this important and unique project.

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